

**MINUTES
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2006**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. held at Freedom Hill County Park.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance:

James M. Perna, President
Gasper Salerno, Vice-President
Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Dino F. Bucci Jr., Sgt. At Arms
Anthony Lipinski
Gene Schabath, Rep. Anthony Marrocco
Marvin E. Sauger
Betty Slinde

Excused/Absent:

Phillip A. DiMaria, excused
Timothy M. Malone, excused
Thomas L. Raymus, absent

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn and David Humbyrd, Parks & Recreation;
Jim Meyerand of Corporation Counsel

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A MOTION BY MR. SCHABATH, SUPPORTED BY MR. LIPINSKI WAS MADE APPROVING THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4TH OF JULY 2006 FIREWORKS

Mr. Perna stated that the Fireworks are on. Mr. Perna informed the Commission that we do have funds for a \$10,000 fireworks show. If any donations come in we will compliment the show by adding more fireworks. He stated we are waiting for Zambelli to send back the contract that was forwarded to them yesterday.

Mr. Schabath asked how this impacts the Park with the County being under an austerity program. Mr. Perna responded monies from the revolving fund can be used for fireworks and revenues from advertising and signage have gone into the revolving fund. No monies come out of the general fund.

Mr. Schabath asked if any donations for fireworks have come forth as he did make phone calls seeking them. Mr. Casasanta responded we have not received any phone calls on donations.

Ms. Slinde suggested letters be sent to large corporations asking for donations. Mr. Schabath concurred with this idea and also suggested in the future an Adhoc Committee be formed for this purpose.

Mr. Sauger voiced his concern and disappointment over erroneous information in the papers that there would not be fireworks.

Mr. Salerno suggested working with American Legions to help with the 4th of July event.

Further discussion ensued about holding fireworks and seeking donations.

Mr. Casasanta stated that in years past we have worked with Chapter 154 of the Vietnam Veterans Group on the 4th of July event. This year is a very special one with the unveiling of the new Vietnam Veterans memorial on the Park grounds. Mr. Casasanta stated that Mr. Daniel's, President of Chapter 154 has picked up the fliers for this event. Also, fliers will be delivered to municipalities.

Mr. Blowers, President/CEO of Lakeside Community Bank, was present to inform the Commission that a check in the amount of \$2,500 has been donated for the 4th of July fireworks.

Mr. Casasanta responded to questions asked by Mr. Bucci relative to the 2005 fireworks by stating approximately 4,000 cars were parked then and a \$5.00 parking fee was charged per vehicle.

Discussion ensued on whether a vote was taken approving 2006 fireworks event.

Mr. Meyerand stated there was no vote on fireworks this year, it's been contingent upon having money. It was his understanding this is why we're having a meeting today to determine this and move forward. It's up to this board on what should be done with monies that come in for the Park. This isn't money that was allocated last year.

Mr. Casasanta stated that historically the intent that the revolving fund was set up to cover County fireworks.

A motion was made by Mr. Sauger to approve 4th of July, 2006 Fireworks. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Casasanta stated that parking revenues were generated over the last ten years for fireworks at the Park. He further stated the Park would not be paying for Sheriff security services on the 4th of July, as verified by Captain Teske of the Sheriff Department.

Mr. Salerno stated under Richard Sabaugh, President of the Parks & Recreation Commission, there was a motion made to set-up a revolving fund for fireworks.

Further discussion ensued.

A MOTION BY MR. SAUGER, SECONDED BY MR. SALERNO WAS MADE TO APPROVE \$12,500 FOR THE 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND FUTURE DONATIONS TO GO TOWARDS INCREASING THE FIREWORKS SHOW FOR 2006. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Perna directed Mr. Casasanta handle a press release regarding the check donation by Lakeside Community Bank to the Park for fireworks and that the County will be holding fireworks on the 4th of July.

INTER-DEPARTMENT & OTHER AGENCY USAGE OF FREEDOM HILL COUNTY PARK

Mr. Casasanta stated under the direction of Mr. Sauger, he developed a Usage Agreement Table that will be submitted to the Operational Subcommittee. This table shows an example of 172 events held at our facility in 2004 at a value of \$50,000 and figures on subsequent years. This table indicates how the County Park is a vital resource for departments.

OTHER

Mr. Casasanta referred to the County Park's letter requesting information on graduations and Hillside's response.

Discussion ensued over the vague information given by Hillside on the graduation events.

Mr. Casasanta stated that the Park staff made no special provisions for the Dakota graduation of 2002 and the Park staff will not be participating in the upcoming graduation events.

Mr. Meyerand suggested that the Commission make a motion directing Corporation Counsel seek all information from Hillside Productions relative to upcoming high school graduations at Freedom Hill.

A MOTION BY MR. SCHABATH, SUPPORTED BY MS. SLINDE WAS MADE REQUESTING CORPORATION COUNSEL SEEK PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM HILLSIDE PRODUCTIONS INC. ON GRADUATION EVENTS AT FREEDOM HILL. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION BY MR. SCHABATH, SUPPORTED BY MR. LIPINSKI WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

President Perna adjourned the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 8:15 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

AEK/sq